

### **Abstract of the Disclosure**

The present invention provides the enzyme and enzymatic procedures for cleaving the  $\beta$  secretase cleavage site of the APP protein and associated nucleic acids, peptides, vectors, cells and cell isolates and assays. The invention further provides a  
5 modified APP protein and associated nucleic acids, peptides, vectors, cells, and cell isolates, and assays that are particularly useful for identifying candidate therapeutics for treatment or prevention of Alzheimer's disease.